

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-36 were previously pending in this application. Within the previous Office Action, Claims 1-17 and 29-36 are rejected. Claims 18-28 are allowed. By the above amendments, Claims 7 and 29 are amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-36 are now pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,715,372 issued to Meyers et al. (hereinafter “Meyers”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,578,007 issued to Howes et al. (hereinafter “Howes”). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Within the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, it is stated that the “automatically transcribed output” language is descriptive language in the preamble and does not have patentable weight. However, the independent Claim 1 was amended in the “Amendment and Request for Continued Examination (RCE)” filed by the Applicant on September 29, 2005. Specifically, the amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for improving productivity of human review of an automatically transcribed output generated by an information processing system, wherein the output is generated in response to an input. The apparatus includes means for extracting an attribute from an automatically transcribed output generated by an information processing system in response to an input, and means for selecting a specific one human reviewer from among a plurality of human reviewers based on the attribute.

Meyers teaches an apparatus that extracts a feature set from an input signal. A feature extraction system 20 derives the feature set from the input signal (Meyers, Figure 1). The feature set is described as a group of signal parameters which characterize the input signal. The feature set extracted from the input signal is sent from the feature extraction system 20 to an intelligent system 30. The intelligent system 30 determines a relationship between the feature set and corresponding signal characteristics. Meyers teaches that the intelligent system 30 operates on the feature set to produce an output signal which characterizes the input signal for the attribute being measured. Howes is cited for choosing a transcriptionist based on attributes from a report;

thus, according to the proposed combination, the transcriptionist is selected based on an input signal.

Within the Office Action, it is stated that Meyers in view of Howes teaches the claimed limitations of independent Claim 1. Specifically, on the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action, it is stated that Meyers teaches “extracting a feature set”, which is said to teach the claimed limitation “means for extracting an attribute from the output.” To support this assertion, column 2, lines 35-39 of Meyers is cited. Column 2, lines 35-39 of Meyers teaches in part “[t]he selected feature set is then extracted from a first input signal.” There is no hint, teaching, or suggestion within Meyers that indicates a means for extracting a feature set from an output signal, where the output signal is an automatically transcribed output signal generated in response to an input. Howes is not cited for teaching means for extracting an attribute from the output. For at least these reasons, the amended Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Meyers in view of Howes.

Claims 2-6 are each dependent upon the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Meyers in view of Howes. Accordingly, Claims 2-6 are each also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 6-17 and 29-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,122,614 issued to Kahn et al. (hereinafter “Kahn”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,595 issued to Romano et al. (hereinafter “Romano”). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The amended independent Claims 6 includes the limitation “means for extracting a keyword from the document, wherein the keyword is determined by comparing the document to a database of keywords” (emphasis added). The amended independent Claim 29 includes the limitation “extracting an attribute from the document, wherein the attribute is determined by comparing the document to a database of keywords” (emphasis added). Within the Office Action, Kahn is cited as teaching these limitations.

Kahn teaches that an audio file is provided by a user and stored as an xxxx.wav file. The audio file is sent to a human transcriptionist where the audio file is transcribed into a transcribed file, which is stored as an xxxx.txt file (Kahn, col. 8, lines 25-28). The audio file is also sent to a speech recognition program where a written text file is generated, which is stored as an xxxx.wrt file (Kahn, col. 9, lines 19-20). The transcribed file (xxxx.txt) and the written file (xxxx.wrt) are

sequentially compared, word by word, to generate a list of unmatched words (Kahn, col. 9, lines 28-32; Figure 4).

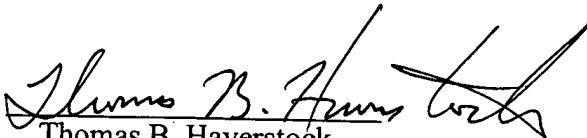
Kahn teaches matching two different converted text documents, both related to the same voice file, and determining words that don't match when comparing the two text documents to each other. In other words, Kahn teaches means for extracting a list of words from a first text document, the written text file xxx.wrt, that do not match words from a second text document, the transcribed file xxxx.txt.. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion that Kahn teaches comparing the written text file xxxx.xrt to a database of keywords to determine words that match, as claimed. In summary, Kahn teaches a method of comparing a text document to another text document for the purpose of finding unmatched words. Kahn does not teach comparing a text document to a database of keywords for the purpose of finding matching words. Romano is not cited for teaching these limitations. Therefore, the amended independent Claims 6 and 29 are allowable over the combination of Kahn and Romano. As Claims 7-17 and Claims 30-36 are each dependent on the independent Claims 6 and 29, respectively, these dependent claims are also allowable.

Within the Office Action, Claims 18-28 are allowed.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submit that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 2-17-06

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR§ 1.8(a))

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HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

Date: 2/17/06 By: 